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REMARKS

This is in response to the Final Office Action mailed on January 16, 2004. Claims 11-27 are pending in the application. Claims 17, 22, 24 and 25 are allowed. Claims 11-16, 18-21, 23 and 26 are rejected and claim 27 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant responds to the Office Action as follows.

Response to Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 11, 14, 19-20, 23 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) on the basis that Voldman discloses multiple row and columns on a wafer. Claims 11, 14, 23 and 26 recite *inter alia* a wafer including a plurality of rows and a plurality of columns of glide portions having air bearing surfaces formed on a surface of the wafer and an array of glide transducers on the wafer to form a plurality of glide heads which is not taught nor suggested by Voldman.

As disclosed with respect to FIGS. 7-9 and 19-21 of Voldman, rows and columns of transducers are formed on the wafer and the wafer is diced into quadrants having rows and columns of sliders. Each quadrant is diced into rows 110, 132, 154 or bars as shown in FIGS. 8 and 20. Col 7, lines 58-60 of Voldman discloses "row 154 [cut from the wafer] may then be further processed to pattern the head air bearing surfaces and diced into individual sliders as shown in FIG. 14". See also col 2, lines 28-43 of Voldman which discloses that rows cut from a wafer are processed or lapped to form the air bearing surfaces of the slider or head which teaches away from the subject matter claimed. Claims 11, 14, 23 and 26 recite *inter alia* a wafer having a plurality of rows **and** a plurality of columns of glide portions having air bearing surfaces formed thereon which as discussed above is not taught by Voldman.

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As set forth in the Office Action, claims 11-14, 23 and 26 were rejected on the basis that it appears that Voldman teaches the subject matter claimed since there is no statement in Voldman that Voldman **does not** teach the subject matter claimed or that the "air bearing surfaces [of Voldman] are not formed while the rows and columns are still on the wafer". This is insufficient to establish a *prima facie* basis to reject the claims. To establish a *prima facie* basis to reject the claims, the reference must expressly or inherently teach the subject matter claimed. The statement that there appears to be no statement in the reference that air bearing surfaces are not formed while the rows and columns are still on the wafer does not satisfy the requirement that the reference expressly or inherently teach the subject matter claimed. Based upon the foregoing reconsideration and allowance of claim 11-14, 23 and 26 are respectfully requested.

Claims 19-20 recite *inter alia* a glide head formed from a wafer comprising a plurality of rows and a plurality of columns of glide portions having a plurality of air bearing surfaces formed on a surface of the wafer and an array of glide transducers on the wafer and the glide head formed from one of said glide portions. As discussed above, Voldman does not teach the glide head formed from a wafer as claimed.

Response to Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 12-13, 15-16, 18 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Voldman in view of Smith, U.S. Patent No. 6,112,401. Claims 12-13, 15-16, 18 and 21 are dependent upon claim 11 which is not taught by Voldman nor the further combination of Smith. Claims 12-13, 15-16, 18 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Voldman in view of Aylwin, U.S. Patent No. 5,452,166. Claims 12-13, 15-16, 18 and 23 are dependent upon claim 11 which is not taught by Voldman nor the further combination of Aylwin.

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Comment Regarding Allowable Claims

Claims 17, 22 and 24-25 are allowed and claim 27 is objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claim 11. As previously discussed, claim 11 is allowable over Voldman and accordingly reconsideration and allowance of dependent claim 27 are respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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